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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 002226

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: LOOKING TO MUSHARRAF VISIT, MEA UPBEAT ON INDO-PAK
REF: NEW DELHI 1736
Classified By: PolCouns Geoff Pyatt, for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

¶1. (C) Summary: Recently ensconced MEA Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) Dilip Sinha was largely upbeat on Indo-Pak relations c Sinha and his predecessor, Arun K. Singh, also reported on recent irritants in the Indo-Pak relationship, alleging that Indian diplomats in I Encouragingly, he did not seek to project these irritants on to the broader political relationship. End Summary.

¶1. (C) In a March 22 introductory meeting with PolCouns and Poloff, MEA Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) Dilip Sinha offered the following nuggets on Indo-Pak relations:

-- On the Indo-Pak cricket series, Sinha agreed that the matches were going well and that the Indian media coverage continued to be largely p

-- With regard to the anticipated April 16-17 visit to New Delhi of Pakistan President Musharraf, Sinha confirmed that there would be ""a mea

-- When asked by PolCouns when the Indo-Pak Composite Dialogue would resume, Sinha responded that, although the talks are to run from April t

¶2. (C) In response to PolCouns' question of how the Indian High Commission in Islamabad views Musharraf (noting the presence in MEA of High Encouragingly, he did not suggest that any of these setbacks would retard the broader Indo-Pak dialogue.

MULFORD "